OGC Has Reviewed

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OGC:TMF:cst 24 June 1954

Memorandum for: Deputy Director (Administration)

Subject

: Qualification of Grandchildren and Grandparents as Dependents for Purposes of Travel At Govern-

ment Expense

OGC FOIAB5

1. In our opinion, the problem presented by the attached

file forwarded to us for comment is solely one of definition.	

STATINTL

defines "members of the family" in the manner stated in memorandum. We would have no legal objection, however, to broadening the scope of the definition to include grandparents or grandchildren as "members of the family". We would also have no legal objection to an exception to the existing regulation being made in the cases presently under consideration, providing such exception is approved by the Director.

2. Aside from the legalities of the situation, we have one additional comment to offer. In our opinion, the policy question to be decided here goes somewhat beyond the immediate problem of the dependency status of grandparents and grandchildren. The proposal of EE Division carries with it an implication of the desirability of a shift from the present arbitrary but definite categories of persons for whom travel will be allowed at Government expense to a single standard of factual dependency for all degrees of relationship other than spouse or children. It is our firm expectation that the present

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request on behalf of grandparents and grandchildren, if granted
specifically to those classes, will be followed in the future by cases
involving dependent aunts or cousins, and it is our further expectation
STATINT that these cases will be just as deserving from an equity point of view
as those presently under consideration. Although, as
points out in his memorandum, this Agency and the State Department
already enjoy an extension of the benefits accorded to employees of
all other Government agencies, it may well be that the test of factual
dependency would be a fairer one and capable of facile administration.
Elements of such a standard are already present in the Agency
regulation.

3. It is our recommendation, therefore, that, if time permits, the opinions of those principally concerned, i.e., DD/P-Admin and the Office of Personnel, be obtained on the advisability of amending the regulation either to add grandparents and grandchildren or to base travel for anyone other than a spouse or child upon a finding of dependency. We do not think that the matter should be decided until those with experience in this field have been consulted.

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